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month, Thompson said his client would hold a press conference after sentencing. However, nothing was said about that yesterday, and Porter said there was still some question about Donahue's being ready, in the therapeutic sense, for a press conference.

Donahue said in court yesterday:

"I have tried as hard as I could to devote myself to the positive growth of young people. And for any harm, and any hurt and any embarrassment that I have brought, I am profoundly and deeply sorry.

"Further, I'm eager to continue my, what I regard, as excellent treatment in therapy and to succeed in altering any inappropriate behavior in a way that will be lifelong.

"I was born in this community and love this community. I've contributed to it and I would like to believe that I can be successful and productive in as many appropriate ways as I can in the future. And I hope that the community will accept that possibility."

After the sentencing Porter said all public reaction he had received regarding the plea bargain was negative. "Put him away for 40 years" was the general reaction, he said.

Porter said that simply is not possible under state sentencing guidelines. Had Donahue been convicted of all charges, the sentence called for would have been three years and seven months in prison. He would have been credited with the 42 days

already spent in custody and given one-third of his sentence off for good behavior.

In his remarks in court, the judge said he was approving the plea agreement "in hopes that more abusers will come forward because we have shown that they will be treated with appropriate consequences and that their behaviors will be treated in an appropriate manner. And finally, in the hopes that this community, most particularly the arts community here, has learned its lesson over this episode."

Thompson said in court that he thought the plea agreement was a very positive, appropriate and healing way to handle the case.

"Mr. Donahue's pleaded guilty to touching some boys, which was wrong and which was criminal," he said. "And he faces some definite consequences to that. In addition, there is another side of his life which has really occupied 99 percent of his life, and that has been a life that has touched the lives of hundreds and hundreds of children in a positive way."

He said Donahue has just learned that this year's graduating class at the Children's Theatre Company school is dedicating its yearbook to him.

Assistant County Attorney Rob Lynn said yesterday that the agreement worked to protect the victims and avoid publicly embarrassing them.

Donahue was one of seven people

charged in the investigation of the Children's Theatre Company and School. The other cases are pending:

■ Shaun McNellis, 23, a former student and apprentice at the theater school, is charged with having sex with a 15-year-old female student.

■ William Joseph Harren, 29, a former dance teacher at the school, is charged with one third-degree count of having sex with a 15-year-old male student.

■ Stephen Adamczak, 32, a former sound technician at the theater, was indicted on a charge of criminal sexual conduct involving two girls, ages 13 and 14.

■ Wayne B. Jennings, 54, education director at the school, was indicted on a charge of failure to report suspected abuse of children.

■ Scott Creeger, 37, a science teacher at the school, also was indicted on a charge of failure to report suspected sexual abuse of children.

■ Dennis Lambert, 35, a former teacher at Bancroft Elementary School, is charged with one count of third-degree sex with a 15-year-old male student at the theater, a felony.

Lambert is not associated with the Children's Theatre, but he was charged as a result of the Donahue investigation. The alleged victim in Lambert's case is also one of the 15-year-old boys with whom Donahue admitted having sex.

Porter was assigned to handle all the cases, but attorneys for Lambert and McNellis asked for a different judge to hear their cases.

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